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TELEGRAM

DOS REVIEWED 12-Jan-2011: NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE AS SANITIZED

CONFIDENTIAL 5475

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REFER TO DOS

16

ACTION INK-11

DIA REVIEWED 06-Dec-2010: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 PM-03 INRE-00 /021 W

035653

R 300819Z JUL 74

FM JCS

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASH DC

C T A

CNO WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

R 300658Z JUL 74

25x1

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO USCINSEUR VAIHINGEN GER//J2//

CINCUSAKEUR HEIDELBERG GER//DCSI//

COMNAVINTCOM ALEX VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG//N2//

CSAF WASHDC//AFIN//

7101 ABWG WIESBADEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN 1227 JULY 74

FROM
THIS

25x1

1. USSR
2. (U) CHANGES IN TOP SOVIET MILITARY LEADERSHIP
3. N/A
4. 26-27 JULY 74
5. MOSCOW, USSR 26-27 JULY 74
6. # - 6
7. 6 001 0020
8. 6 001 0697 74
9. 29 JULY 74
10. 5 PAGES
11. DIRN: 1G1
12. 25x1
13. 25x1
14. 25x1
15. (C/NFO) TEXT:

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A. (C/NFO) AT DINNER PARTY 26 JULY 74, AND DURING MEETING ON 27 JULY 74 [25x1] RO HE HAS HEARD THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN THE SOVIET MILITARY LEADERSHIP ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

(1) GRECHKO WILL GIVE UP HIS POSITION AS MOD BUT WILL REMAIN ON THE POLITBURE.

(2) TOLUBKO WILL MOVE FROM CHIEF OF ROCKET FORCES TO BECOME MOD. [25x1] HAD NOT HEARD WHO WILL REPLACE TOLUBKO.

(3) KULIKOV WILL MOVE FROM CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF TO REPLACE YAKUBOVSKIY AS CINC WARSAW PACT FORCES. SOURCE HAD NOT HEARD WHO WILL REPLACE KULIKOV, BUT SPECULATED IT MIGHT BE OGARKOV. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YAKUBOVSKIY.

(4) IVANOVSKIY WILL MOVE FROM CINC GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES, GERMANY TO REPLACE PAVLOSKIY AS CINC GROUND FORCES. PAVLOVSKIY WILL THEN MOVE TO CHIEF INSPECTORATE.

B. (C/NFO) [25x1] DECLINED TO SAY WHERE HE HAD GOT HIS INFORMATION WHETHER HIS SOURCE WAS SOVIET. WHEN PRESSED FOR INFO ON WHEN CHANGES WERE TO TAKE PLACE, HE WOULD ONLY SAY "NOT IMMEDIATELY, BUT SOON."

C. (C/NFO) WHEN RO COMMENTED THAT MOVING FROM CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF TO CINC WARSAW PACT FORCES APPEARED TO BE A STEP DOWN FOR KULIKOV, [25x1] POINTED OUT THAT BOTH POSITIONS CARRY TITLE OF FIRST DEPUTY MOD AND STATED THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER ONE LESS PRESTIGIOUS THAN THE OTHER. WHEN RO INSISTED THAT KULIKOV APPEARED TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION THAN TOLUBKO FOR BECOMING MOD, [25x1] THAT REGARDLESS OF APPEARANCES TOLUBKO WAS THE ONE IN LINE FOR THE JOB AND THAT IF HE ACTUALLY BECAME MOD IT WOULD INDICATE EVEN GREATER PRIMACY FOR THE STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES AMONG THE TYPES OF ARMED FORCES.

D. (C/NFO) [25x1] THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY TALKED TO OGARKOV AND THAT HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY HIS INTELLIGENCE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE FEW SOVIET GENERAL OFFICERS WHO WOULD TALK TO A FOREIGNER ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

COMMENT (C,NFO): (1) THERE IS NO WAY OF ASSESSING VALIDITY OF INFO PROVIDED [25x1] BUT RO IS CONVINCED THAT [25x1] BELIEVES IT. SOURCE SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONFIDENT THAT TOLUBKO WILL ACCED TO MOD POSITION. IF TOLUBKO IS SELECTED FOR THIS POSITION AHEAD OF KULIKOV, HIS PROMOTION MAY INDEED SIGNAL STILL

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GREATER IMPORTANCE FOR THE STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES AND BE AN INDICATION OF SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THIS TYPE OF ARMED FORCES. KULIKOV MAY MISS THIS PROMOTION SIMPLY BY REASON OF NOT HAVING HAD AN ADEQUATE BACKGROUND IN THE FIELD WHICH IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE GREATEST EMPHASIS.

(2) ON BALANCE NONE OF THE CHANGES INDICATED 25x1 ARE UNREASONABLE. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT POLITBUREAU DUTIES HAVE PLACED HEAVY DEMAND ON GRECHKO'S TIME. THEREFORE, IT WOULD NOT BE UNEXPECTED IF HE WERE TO RELINQUISH HIS MOD POSITION. KULIKOV'S BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE SHOULD QUALIFY HIM IDEALLY AS CINC WARSAW PACT FORCES. ALTHOUGH PAVLOSSKIY SEEMS A LITTLE YOUNG FOR RELEGATION TO THE GENERAL INSPECTORATE, THERE MAYBE OTHER REASONS FOR SUCH A MOVE WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT. IVANOVSKIY, OF COURSE, IS WELL QUALIFIED AND A KNOWN "COMER." TOLUBKO HAS BEEN LARGELY AN UNKNOWN FACTOR, BUT WITHOUT QUESTION HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED. ONE OVERALL EFFECT OF THESE PERSONNEL CHANGES WOULD BE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP. THIS WOULD BE AN EXTENSION OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED POLICY, MOST EVIDENT IN THE APPOINTMENT OF YOUNG MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDERS, AND A YOUNG CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

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